

Christmas Greetings

from Bellingham Deanery

Christmas this year feels different. It’s been such a tough year. Some of us have lost jobs, some of us have lost loved ones, some have been frantically busy, some have felt alone and empty. Some have even said ‘Christmas can’t happen this year’. But Christmas can never be cancelled. The message of Jesus’ birth is that God is with us in every disappointment and difficulty, in sorrow and in celebration, bringing hope and light into the darkest days, bringing comfort and joy into our hearts.

The message of Christmas

is more important than ever this year.

***Sadly we have had to take the difficult decision not to hold our usual services in church this Christmas – simply because we can’t keep people socially distanced with the numbers which usually come. We’re so sorry. However keeping everyone safe is the very best way of loving our neighbour this Christmas.***

***Instead we’d like to invite you to join us for our Christmas Services online. There’ll be a Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 6pm and Morning Worship on Christmas Day at 10am. You would be so very welcome to join us. We can promise you an opportunity to sing carols at the top of your voices and share the joy of Christmas. If you’d like to join the services, then please register with each of the codes below, one for each service. This will give you a link to the service on the day.***

For The Carol Service on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMuf-ihpj0oH9RtbZtOp_jlrjwEtyhNqZuY>

For Christmas Morning worship at 10.00am :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpduGvpz0rHNBv68UjSGDzBJ_lVp7wOaLJ>

You might like to download the Comfort and Joy app on your mobile phone – there are daily messages, prayers and services to listen to.

Or why not try the free phone service called Daily Hope? Just ring 0800 804 8044 for music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England.

Our churches will be open and decorated for Christmas – you are most welcome to come in at any time for a quiet moment of reflection, perhaps to pray for those you love, or for those who need to know the joy of God’s loving presence in their lives. We shall be praying this prayer for you each day.

Why not join in and make it your prayer too?

***God of comfort and joy,***

***may we know your presence with us today***

***and bring your gentle, joyful love***

***to others this Christmas and always.***

***Amen***

***All of the children in the three schools in the south of the Deanery have been given a Messy Christmas bag with things to do with the family at home. One of the activities is a wooden decoration to be coloured in or written upon ready to be hung on a tree near or inside your church, or in the village. There are many more of these decorations, each singly wrapped to be Covid safe, available in our village shops and in the porches of our churches for folk of all ages to decorate or write the name of a loved one whom we miss this Christmas. Please would you begin to hang the baubles on the trees in Humshaugh, Wark, Chollerton, Simonburn, Wall and Gunnerton from December 18th so that they are all there by Christmas.***

**Even though we cannot meet in church this Christmas, do be assured that the Church is still here, living and sharing the love of God! If you would like to contact a member of the clergy, the details are below:**

Revd Christine Bull email: [bull.christine4@gmail.com](mailto:bull.christine4@gmail.com) Tel: 01434672303

Revd Frances Dower email: [frances.dower@dower.org.uk](mailto:frances.dower@dower.org.uk) Tel: 01670774297

Revd Sarah Lunn email: [sarahlunn63@gmail.com](mailto:sarahlunn63@gmail.com) Tel: 01434681721

Revd Claire Robson email: [DDO@newcastle.anglican.org](mailto:DDO@newcastle.anglican.org) Tel: 07741849651

*For live services please keep an eye on church notice boards,*[*achurchnearyou.com*](http://achurchnearyou.com)*,*[ttps://www.facebook.com/HumshaughChurch](https://eur06.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FHumshaughChurch&data=04%7C01%7C%7C87878510b5cd4f85a3e008d89841241a%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637426752821600834%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=BctfUdZCv0DDNWL%2BObIypUvkR3f3LqFKBbE9Drmky80%3D&reserved=0) *or other normal local methods of communication.*

*If you would like to join in Newcastle Cathedral worship over Christmas the link is below: newcastlecathedral.org.uk*